

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4749

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, BEXP, EEWT, US, RO
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST TO ROMANIA

1. DURING EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE VEST'S JUNE 24-28 VISIT TO ROMANIA TO ATTEND SESSION OF U.S.-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL, HE HAD TWO WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS LED BY MINISTER/STATE SECRETARY ILIE RADULESCU, AND SEPARATE SHORTER MEETINGS WITH CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR VASILE PUNGAN, FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHEORGHE OPREA, AND FOREIGN MINISTER STEFAN ANDREI (FIVE MEMCONS POUCHED). MR. VEST ALSO ACCOMPANIED US COMPONENT OF THE COUNCIL ON A CALL ON PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU (BUCHAREST 4517) AND HE HAD A SEPARATE, PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER CORNEL BURTICA (BUCHAREST 4584). IN ALL CASES, CONVERSATIONS WERE CORDIAL AND CANDID, WITH BOTH SIDES STRESSING THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL STATE VISIT OF CEAUSESCU TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE DESIRE FOR CLOSE CONSULTATIONS ON A VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL SUBJECTS. WE HAVE SUMMARIZED PRINCIPAL POINTS WHICH EMERGED IN THE TALKS.

2. MULTILATERAL
-- ROMANIA DOES NOT FAVOR US-SOVIET TENSION BUT ON CONTRARY HOPES THAT CURRENT INTERNATIONAL "CONFRONTATION" WILL QUIET
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DOWN.
-- GOR'S DISAPPOINTMENT WITH RESULTS OF BELGRADE CSCE MEETING AND NEED FOR CAREFUL PREPARATION FOR MADRID.
-- ROMANIA'S PERVASIVE INTEREST IN DISARMAMENT/ARMS CONTROL QUESTIONS AND ITS SUPPORT FOR ANY MEASURE, INCLUDING CREATION OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONES AND FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, WHICH COULD LEAD TO MILITARY DISENGAGE-

MENT IN EUROPE.

-- VERY CLOSE ROMANIAN AND US POSITIONS ON AFRICA, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN THE CONTINENT.

-- ROMANIAN AGREEMENT TO CONTINUED CLOSE US-ROMANIAN CONSULTATIONS ON EUROPEAN ISSUES BETWEEN BELGRADE AND MADRID AND ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, WITH FORMAT AND TIMING TO BE DECIDED (CF BUCHAREST 4199).

3. BILATERAL

-- TREMENDOUS STRESS, FROM PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ON DOWN, ON EXPORT LICENSE PROBLEM. FONMIN ANDREI NOTED THAT CEAUSESCU'S RETURN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON THIS SUBJECT WAS THEN ON HIS DESK, AND MR. VEST EXPRESSED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF IMPORTANCE GOR ATTRIBUTES TO THIS PROBLEM AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO DO WHAT HE COULD ON IT.

-- ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN AD HOC ROMANIAN SOLUTION FOR PROPERTY COMPENSATION CASES OF U.S. CITIZENS, WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON NEED TO RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY OF THIS ARRANGEMENT.

-- A SPECIFIC APPEAL FOR GRANTING OF ROMANIAN FISHING RIGHTS IN U.S. 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE.

-- REITERATION OF NOW-STANDARD ROMANIAN DESIRE FOR MULTI-YEAR MFN AND AVOIDANCE OF ANNUAL HEARINGS, TO WHICH ASSISTANT SECRETARY REPLIED THAT, WHILE ADMINISTRATION WOULD INDEED BE LOOKING FOR A SOLUTION, THE POLITICAL TIMING NOW IS NOT PROPITIOUS.

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-- NEW GOR STATISTICS ON EMIGRATION TO U.S., MIXED MARRIAGES APPROVALS, AND JEWISH EMIGRATION IN PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1975-JUNE 15, 1978, AND MR. VEST'S STRESS ON NEED TO SOLVE THE DIFFICULT CASES AS WELL AS MAINTAIN A POSITIVE TREND.

-- ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S FRANK DESCRIPTION OF POOR SITUATION IN FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, AND ROMANIAN MENTION OF AN UPCOMING INTERNAL REVIEW OF ALL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH U.S. TO MAKE ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION MORE EFFECTIVE.

-- ROMANIAN APPROACH FOR US ASSISTANCE IF NEEDED TO AVOID COMPLICATIONS CONCERNING U.S. TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED IN CANADIAN CANDU HEAVY-WATER REACTOR WHICH ROMANIA IS SEEKING TO ACQUIRE.

-- ROMANIAN INTEREST IN PURCHASE OF AN AIRCRAFT ENGINE FROM GENERAL ELECTRIC FOR CIVIL USE, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE STATE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL.

4. OPREA ASKED THAT HIS PERSONAL GREETINGS BE GIVEN TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND TO DR. BRZESINSKI, AND ANDREI ASKED HIS TO BE SENT TO SECRETARY VANCE AND DR. BRZEZINSKI. ANDREI ALSO STATED HIS INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO INFORM US ABOUT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS CEAUSESCU'S

RECENT ASIAN TRIP, WITH IMPLICIT EXPECTATION OF RECIPROCITY.
HE URGED US TO SIGNAL GOR WHENEVER A PROBLEM IN BILATERAL
RELATIONS ARISES SO IT COULD BE DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED
AND NOT FESTER.

5. COMMENT: THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S VISIT HERE WAS
EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED BY THE ROMANIANS WHO PREPARED AN EX-
CELLENT PROGRAM WHICH ALLOWED CONSIDERABLE TIME FOR HIGH-
LEVEL SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS DURING WHAT WAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY
BUSY PERIOD FOR GOR (E.G. COMECON SUMMIT WAS MEETING IN
BUCHAREST AND TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE MAKING OFFICIAL
VISITS). VISIT SERVED AS IMPORTANT FOCAL POINT BOTH FOR
CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH GOR AND FOR STRENGTHENING US-
ROMANIAN RELATIONS. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, VISIT WAS A
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RINGING SUCCESS ON ALL COUNTS.
AGGREY

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